



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - March 28, 2003

- ***In the West***, mild, dry, breezy weather favors spring fieldwork in **California** and the **Southwest**. Meanwhile, cool, dry weather prevails across the **Intermountain West**.
- ***On the Plains***, sharply cooler weather is temporarily slowing winter wheat development. Although recent soil moisture improvements have improved prospects for winter wheat and soon-to-be-planted summer crops, long-term drought concerns persist on the **northern and central High Plains**.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, an early-spring storm system is delivering much-needed precipitation in preparation for spring planting. However, wind-driven rain and snow and cold conditions are increasing livestock stress in the **upper Great Lakes region**.
- ***In the South***, warm, dry weather is returning to the **southern Atlantic region**, following yesterday's showers and locally severe thunderstorms. Farther west, showers and thunderstorms associated with an approaching cold front are spreading through **eastern Oklahoma and northwestern Arkansas**. Elsewhere, mild, dry weather favors **Southern** planting operations.

Outlook: A strong cold front will push eastward across the **Mississippi Valley** toward the **Atlantic Coast**. Snow will diminish on Friday across the **upper Great Lakes region**, but thunderstorms will intensify along the trailing cold front in the **Ohio and Tennessee Valleys**. In the front's wake, unseasonably cold weather will overspread the **Plains and Mississippi Valley**. Showers and possible severe thunderstorms will reach the **East Coast** on Saturday. Meanwhile, the weekend will feature dry weather across the **western and central U.S.** The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 2-6 calls for above-normal precipitation along the **West Coast, northern portions of the Rockies and Plains**, and **upper Midwest**, while drier-than-normal conditions are forecast across the **Southeast** and the **southern half of the Plains**. Above-normal temperatures are expected across the **southern half of the U.S.**, while cooler-than-normal weather is forecast along the **West Coast** and across the **nation's northern tier**.

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